

Babergh District**Personal Details:**

Name: David Busby
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Babergh District Council

Comment text:

Whilst appreciating the desire to create equal representation the 'numbers' will always be a distant second to keeping communities together. I am basing my views on 4 years experience as a county councillor (for Belstead Brook) and 14 years as a district councillor (for Pinewood). There are a number of factors that need to be taken into account before designing a solution: > the exercise for Babergh was voluntary - i.e. it wasn't necessary; > we are in the process of completing a new, significantly different, local plan; > as a district we are working towards delivering a 20%+ increase in housing - however the bulk of this will be targetted on the outskirts of Ipswich. We could see an expolsion in housing numbers in Brook, Mid Samford, Dodnash & Alton wards - potentially an extra 4,000 houses or 10,000 people; > there is a possibility of a merger with Mid Suffolk which could make the preference for a unitary option more feasible - leading to a need for another boundary review; > we are in danger of creating an imbalance with the county divisions and parliamentary boundaries - it is beginning to look like a camel i.e. a horse designed by committee. The existing Belstead Brook county division currently made up of 2 complete wards (Brook and Pinewood), under one of Babergh's options, would have 4 partial wards and 5 district councillors compared to the current 4; > having been both county and district councillor i always felt that the ratio of 1 county councillor to 4 district councillors was out of balance. I felt that I could undertake both posts on my own but certainly both Pinewood and Brook could operate with just 1 district councillor each instead of the current 2. We could achieve one of the objectives - to reduce councillor numbers - quite simply by cutting the number of 2 member wards. The solution I put forward for consideration is primarily a holding position until the results of the Local Plan, growth projections and unitary discussions are more advanced. I would just allocate 3 councillors to each of the 10 county divisions making 30 councillors in all. I appreciate that having multi-member wards is not an aim of the Boundary Commission but it does give greater flexibility and the least disruption.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded